



## *News from* **SALEM COUNTY** Office of Public Information

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### **SALEM COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION RECEIVES HONORS**

(SALEM, NJ)—The New Jersey Historical Commission honored the Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission at a ceremony in Trenton on March 9, 2011, for its work promoting awareness and understanding of New Jersey history. Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Historical Commission Chair Michael Fernandez presented an award certificate to Freeholder Beth E. Timberman and Director of Cultural Affairs James F. Turk.

“The New Jersey Historical Commission’s support for the Cultural and Heritage Commission’s re-grant program is critical,” said Freeholder Beth Timberman, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Commission, “and recognition for what we have accomplished is greatly appreciated.”

This award marks the second time recently that the Historical Commission has recognized the Cultural & Heritage Commission’s projects. Last month on February 19, the Commission awarded the Giles R. Wright Grant to support “Seven Steps to Freedom,” a multimedia project focusing on the Underground Railroad and African-American history in Salem County sponsored by the Cultural and Heritage Commission and New Jersey Network. The award presentation took place at Rutgers Newark, as part of the annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series.

“Giles R. Wright was the Director of the Afro-American History Program at the New Jersey Historical Commission at the time of his death in February 2009,” said Sara Cureton, Acting Executive Director, NJ Historical Commission. “Understanding and documenting the history of the Underground Railroad in New Jersey was a particular interest of Mr. Wright’s, making the selection of this year’s grantee especially appropriate.”

The New Jersey Historical Commission is a state agency within the NJ Department of State dedicated to the advancement of public knowledge and preservation of New Jersey history. Established in 1967, the Commission’s mission is to enrich the lives of the public by preserving the historical record and advancing interest in and awareness of New Jersey’s past.



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Salem County's Cultural and Heritage Commission is one of the oldest in the state, established in 1972 and shares the state commission's dedication to the preservation and promotion of local history. In addition to its grant program, the Commission convenes meetings of local history organizations and professionals to develop programs and promotions encouraging public participation in history-related activities.

For information about the Cultural & Heritage Commission call 1-877-658-6871.

Photo caption: Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Michael Fernandez, NJ Historical Commission Chair, present an award certificate to Salem County Freeholder Beth E. Timberman and Director of Cultural Affairs James F. Turk in Trenton, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Also present were (left to right) Sara Cureton, Acting Executive Director, NJ Historical Commission, and Commissioners Susan Coen and Margaret Westfield.